

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANAGU 03690 01 OF 02 081933Z

67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-20 PC-04 NIC-01 DRC-01 SIL-01 LAB-06 CU-04 /126 W

----- 044439

R 081600Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2410

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MANAGUA 3690

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, ELAB, NU

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SUMMARY - AUGUST 25-SEPTEMBER 7, 1973

REF: MANAGUA 3544

1. OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED LIBEL LAW INCREASES. GENERAL SOMOZA'S ENDORSEMENT OF A PROPOSED LIBEL LAW AT HIS AUGUST 29 PRESS CONFERENCE HAS GALVANIZED OPPOSITION TO IT AND BROUGHT ABOUT A RARE UNION OF INFORMATION MEDIA PROFESSIONALS. MEETING IN MANAGUA SEPTEMBER 4, A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF NEWSMEN, COMPOSED OF APPROXIMATELY 100 NEWSPAPER, RADIO AND TELEVISION REPORTERS AND EDITORS FROM ALL MAJOR CITIES, PASSED A RESOLUTION DENOUNCING THE PROPOSED LIBEL LAW AS UNNECESSARY AND A THREAT TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND FORMED A TEN MEMBER "COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION." THE INTER AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION HAS SUPPORTED THE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MANAGU 03690 01 OF 02 081933Z

NICARAGUAN JOURNALISTS, EXPRESSING ITS CONCERN OVER THE

LAW'S POTENTIAL THREAT TO PRESS FREEDOM AND THE HOPE THAT IT WILL BE DEFEATED. SINCE THE LIBEL LAW COULD BE USED TO DEAL WITH THE PUBLIC DECLARATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS THE MEDIA, REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS GROUPS SUCH AS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, LABOR UNIONS AND THE CHAMBER OF CONSTRUCTION ATTENDED THE SEPTEMBER 4 ASSEMBLY AND EXPRESSED THEIR OPPOSITION TO RESTRICTIONS OF THE FREE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION. POLITICIANS, SENSING A GOOD THING, HAVE ALSO JOINED IN. THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY ISSUED A FORMAL DECLARATION OF SUPPORT; PCN-P PRESIDENT AND NATIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBER PAGUAGA DECLARED THAT HIS PARTY WOULD VOTE AGAINST ANY PROPOSAL ATTACKING PRESS FREEDOM; AND DR ORLANDO MONTENEGRO, AN INDEPENDENT AND OUTSPOKEN PLN DEPUTY AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS, EXPRESSED HIS OPINION THAT THE MEDIA ARE ADEQUATELY REGULATED BY EXISTING LAWS AND THE PROPOSED LIBEL LAW IS THEREFORE UNNECESSARY AND INCONVENIENT AT THIS TIME.

2. BUS FARES INCREASED. THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 6, MANAGUA'S BUS COMMUTERS FOUND THE COST OF FARES INCREASED BY AN AVERAGE OF 50 PERCENT. THE TWENTY CENTAVO HIKE (FROM C\$.40 TO C\$.60) WAS THE BUS COMPANIES PRICE FOR SETTLING A DISPUTE WITH THE BUS DRIVERS WHO WON ENFORCEMENT OF AN 8 HOUR DAY AT A MINIMUM SALARY OF C\$40, AMOUNTING TO A 50 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE. GENERAL SOMOZA HAD ANNOUNCED THE SETTLEMENT AT HIS AUGUST 29 PRESS CONFERENCE, BUT THE FARE INCREASE WAS NOT FORMALLY APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL UNTIL SEPTEMBER 5. THE EARTHQUAKE EFFECTIVELY SPLIT MANAGUA INTO THREE FAR-FLUNG SECTIONS AND THOUSANDS OF MANAGUANS MUST NOW DEPEND ON BUSES TO COMMUTE LONG DISTANCES TO WORK, SCHOOL AND MARKET. LOW INCOME GROUPS WHOSE SALARIES HAVE NOT YET CAUGHT UP WITH INFLATION WILL BE ESPECIALLY HARD HIT BY THE FARE INCREASE. COMMENT: VOLATILE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND GROUPS IN THE MARGINAL SUBURBS OF THE CITY ARE ALREADY PROTESTING THE INCREASE, BUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO PREDICT THE SCALE OR SIGNIFICANCE OF ORGANIZED RESISTANCE. END COMMENT.

3. SOCIAL CHRISTIANS ISSUE MANIFESTO. THE SOCIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MANAGU 03690 01 OF 02 081933Z

CHRISTIAN PARTY (PSC), WHOSE MAIN POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN RECENT WEEKS HAS BEEN SUPPORT OF STRIKING LABOR UNIONS WITH TIES TO THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CONFEDERATION ESPECIALLY IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY, ISSUED A GENERAL MANIFESTO SEPTEMBER 1. THE MANIFESTO ADDRESSES ISSUES OF CURRENT CONCERN SUCH AS THREATS TO PRESS FREEDOM, LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW, PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION AND ELECTORAL LAW, RISING INFLATION, DEMANDS FOR SALARY

INCREASES AND THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL ARMY. THE APPARENT
OBJECTIVE OF THE PSC IS TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE DRAFTING OF
THE NEW CONSTITUTION AND ELECTORAL LAWS WHICH WILL GOVERN THE
NATIONAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR 1974 IN WHICH, IF CONDITIONS
ARE RIGHT, THE PARTY HOPES TO PARTICIPATE. HOWEVER, THE
LIMITED PUBLICITY SO FAR GIVEN THE MANIFESTO DOES NOT
CONTRIBUTE MUCH TOWARD THAT GOAL.
SHELTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANAGU 03690 02 OF 02 081938Z

67
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-20 PC-04 NIC-01 DRC-01 SIL-01 LAB-06 CU-04 /126 W
----- 044446

R 081600Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2411
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 MANAGUA 3690

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

4. CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN ARMIES. OPPOSITION LA
PRENSA, THE INDEPENDENT EL CENTROAMERICANA AND MANY RADIO
STATIONS HAVE GIVEN HEAVY PLAY TO THE CARACAS CONFERENCE.
NEWS ARTICLES AND COMMENTARY HAVE FOCUSED ON THE
REPORTED EMERGENCE OF A "NATIONALISTIC AND PROGRESSIVE"
BLOC LED BY PERU AND ARGENTINA WHICH IS OPPOSED TO
"CONTINUED US DOMINANCE.". LA PRENSA HAS USED THE
STORY TO TRY AND PORTRAY GENERAL SOMOZA AS AN OLD STYLE
MULTIMILLIONAIRE, MILITARY DICTATOR FOR LIFE WHO IS THEREFORE
AN "ANARCHRONISM" AMONG THE LA MILITARY LEADERS ATTENDING

THE CONFERENCE. THIS CAMPAIGN WAS ASSISTED BY A
SEPTEMBER 5 AP REPORT FROM CARACAS THAT THE VENEZUELAN
SENATE VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO DECLARE SOMOZA PERSONA NON
GRATA IN THE COUNTRY. NICARAGUA'S NATIONAL CONSTITUENT
ASSEMBLY, WHICH HAS NOT MET IN ALMOST A MONTH, WILL
REPORTEDLY MEET NEXT WEEK TO VOTE A RESOLUTION CENSURING
THE ACTION OF THE VENEZUELAN SENATE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MANAGU 03690 02 OF 02 081938Z

5. SOMOZA FAMILY NEWS.

A. THE AUGUST 26 WASHINGTON, DC, WEDDING OF THE
DAUGHTER OF AMBASSADOR AND MRS SEVILLA SACASA AND THE
SON OF GENERAL JOSE R SOMOZA SURPRISINGLY WAS NOT
PUBLICIZED IN NICARAGUA. SO FAR, EVEN THE SOMOZA FAMILY
OWNED NOVEDADES ONLY MENTION OF THE AFFAIR WAS AN
INCIDENTAL REFERENCE INCLUDED IN THE CAPTION OF A PICTURE OF
GENERAL JOSE R SOMOZA'S ARRIVAL FROM WASHINGTON.

B. WEDDING BELLS ARE REPORTEDLY RINGING FOR ANOTHER SOMOZA.
LUIS SOMOZA URCUYO, SON OF DECEASED FORMER PRESIDENT LUIS SOMOZA
DEBAYLE, IS TO MARRY HILDA ARIAS PISA, DAUGHTER OF A PROMINENT
PANAMANIAN FAMILY IN LONDON SEPTEMBER 7.

C. MEANWHILE, LUIS'S MOTHER, FORMER FIRST LADY DONA
ISABEL URCUYO DE SOMOZA HAS BEEN APPOINTED NICARAGUA'S
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
WITH RANK OF AMBASSADOR. DONA ISABEL WILL REPORTEDLY
TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN NEW YORK CITY, WHERE SHE RECENTLY
PURCHASED A HOME.

D. GENERAL ANASTASIO SOMOZA'S SON CAPTAIN ANASTASIO
SOMOZA PORTOCARRERO HAS BEEN TRAVELLING EXTENSIVELY ON
THE ATLANTIC COAST, SPARKING RUMORS THAT HE WILL BE A
PLN CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS FROM THE BLUEFIELDS REGION IN
THE 1974 ELECTIONS.

E. GENERAL ANASTASIO SOMOZA CONTINUES TO BE PROCLAIMED
AS THE PLN 1974 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE AT RALLIES
SYSTEMATICALLY HELD IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT CITIES EACH WEEK.
SHELTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DEFAMATION, POLITICAL SITUATION, MOTOR BUSES, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MANAGU03690
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730947/aaaabihx.tel
Line Count: 215
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MANAGUA 3544
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL SUMMARY - AUGUST 25-SEPTEMBER 7, 1973
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, ELAB, NU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005